

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 05114 241615Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5388

S E C R E T JIDDA 5114

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, LE, US

SUBJECT: BEIRUT EVACUATION

REF: STATE 182825 (TOSEC 190083)

1. PRINCE FAHD TRANSMITS LATEST RECEIVED FROM PLO REP IN JIDDA. HIS EMISSARY AND I AGREE THAT THIS PLO COMMENT PROBABLY PREDATED YOUR MESSAGE OF THIS MORNING INDICATING INTENTION TO EVACUATE BY SEA NEXT TUESDAY MORNING. FAHD'S REMARKS FOLLOW HIS RECEIPT OF THAT MESSAGE FROM YOU.

BEGIN QUOTE

2. THE US AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT INSISTS THAT CONVOY TAKE THE LAND ROUTE. PLO INFORMS HRH THAT COMMUNIST (SIC) FORCES MIGHT WISH TO INTERFERE WITH CONVOY AND SOME CHRISTIANS MAY HAVE SAME INTENTION. PLO INFORMED HRH THAT NOBODY CAN GUARANTEE THE SAFETY OF THE CONVOY IN THE MOUNTAINS. PLO WILLING TO ACCEPT EVACUATION BY SEA OR BY AIR. IF LATTER METHOD IS CHOSEN RED CROSS PLANES NOW ARRIVING AT BEIRUT COULD BE USED TO EVACUATE PEOPLE. HRH ADVISES THAT EVACUATION BY LAND SHOULD BE AVOIDED AND SHOULD BE BY SEA OR AIR ROUTES.

3. THE PLO HAS NOTED ARTICLES IN THE WASHINGTON POST AND

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 JIDDA 05114 241615Z

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR THAT HAD A VERY BAD EFFECT ON MODERATES

IN THE PLO. EXTREMISTS AND COMMUNISTS WANT TO COMPLICATE MATTERS BY INVOLVING US IN CONFRONTATION SITUATION. HRH SUGGESTS THAT USGOVT CONSIDER ISSUING STATEMENT EITHER THROUGH AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT OF DEPT OF STATE TO EFFECT USGOVT APPRECIATES ALL GOOD EFFORTS EXERTED TO HELP HER EVACUATE HER CITIZENS. HRH FEELS WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO MODERATES WHICH WILL HELP THEM COUNTER EXTREMIST INFLUENCE IS VERY DESIRABLE AT THIS POINT. ASIDE FROM PLO EXTREMIST AND COMMUNIST DESIRE TO ENGAGE U.S. IN CONFRONTATION HRH MAKES POINT THAT INTERNATIONAL ZIONISM HAS EVERY INTEREST IN DEVELOPING BATTLEGROUND BETWEEN U.S. AND PALESTINIANS. ALSO, HRH MAKES POINT THAT POWER AND MIGHT ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO UNITED STATES. IN LEBANON NOW THERE IS CHAOS AND TENSION. PATIENCE IS REQUIRED TO AVOID RECOURSE TO FORCE. IF UTILIZED, FORCE WILL RESULT IN MANY CASUALTIES. EVEN PARTIAL OCCUPATION WILL NOT SOLVE THE ISSUE.

4. IT IS IMPORTANT NOT TO LOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THE OBJECTIVE IS SAFE EVACUATION. HRH IS FOLLOWING THE SITUATION DAY AND NIGHT. HE REGRETS THAT HE LACKS DIRECT MEANS OF CONTROLLING OUTCOME BUT HE FEELS IT IN BEST INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES TO AVOID EXCITEMENT AND TO UTILIZE PATIENCE IN DEALING WITH THIS SEVERE PROBLEM WHOSE RESULTS ONLY GOD CAN FORESEE. END QUOTE.
PORTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EMERGENCY EVACUATION, CITIZEN PROTECTION, AIR TRANSPORTATION, MARINE TRANSPORTATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, CAT-C
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976JIDDA05114
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840093-2041
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760725/aaaaavih.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 STATE 182825
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BEIRUT EVACUATION
TAGS: AEMR, PFOR, LE, US, SA, PLO, (FAHD, PRINCE)
To: STATE SS SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006